

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, November 20, 2008

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Howard Askins, Lana Brody, and Victoria Sofro
- Absent: Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the month of October were approved with corrections. - Wolff/Rabens

IV. Chair and Vice Chair Reports -The following issues were discussed:

EMS/PMRT (Emergency Medical Services/Psychiatric Medical Response Team) - Commissioner Perrou reported, no results culminated from the EMS meeting on the transportation of patients held September 10, 2008 on attended by Dr. Shaner, Jerry Lubin and other department representatives. Commissioner and has gained the support from CAMI and NAMI Urban LA. Commissioner Perrou led a discussion on what can be done to move faster on the issues. He also discussed what appears to be a lack of interest in the hospital bed and transportation issues. No one wants to take on any additional concerns due to the current state of the economy. Discussions continued with the following:

- 5150 civil detain by law enforcement overview
- Taking patients to LPS facility.
- What are the possibilities if a patient is sent to another facility in the ambulance, does the second agency have to take the patient if there are no available beds?

MOTION – Develop action plan to move on the transportation issue in a reasonable time and include a proposal to address changing the policy that prohibits ACCESS operators from making referrals to facilities that have no available beds. (Rabens/Perrou)

Transfer to DMH - Alcohol & Drug Programs – The board discussed transferring Alcohol & Drug Programs back to DMH; the issue is in the distance. Meanwhile, the Chair opened a discussion on the possibility of having two commissions. Alcohol & Drug Programs is currently under the Public Health Department. It has two commissions, Narcotics and Drugs Commission and Alcohol and Drug Commission. The board tabled the issue for further investigation.

Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) – Commissioner Ilean Rabens gave an update on the Stigma project that received a grant from PIF. Commissioner discussed a misunderstanding regarding the final outcome. What the commission agreed to, which was detailed in the grant, was not fulfilled in the outcome. The outcome of the proposal still needs to be completed. A request for additional funding will be necessary to complete the proposal requirements.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Lana Brody – Stacy Snider, CEO, Dreamworks, accepted the invitation to be guest speaker at the 10th Annual Awards program on Thursday, May 21, 2008. The event will be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Commissioner Victoria Sofro – The date of the Connections for Life Conference is April 1, 2009. It will be held at the California Endowment Center. Paul Barry from “The Village” in Long Beach will be the moderator.

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman reported on the following –

- **MHSA Housing Trust Fund**
The Department is currently conducting 12 debriefing meetings for both those applicants who were recommended for funding and those who were not recommended for funding under the Housing Trust Fund and is still in contract negotiations with awardees.
- **MHSA Housing Program**
Nine projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process (see attachment). The status of each project is shown below:
 - Initiating the Service Planning Process
 - Mini Twelve Step House
 - Nehemiah Court Apartments
 - Finalizing Service Plans for Posting and/or Technical Submission under Review
 - SCHARP Apartments
 - Daniel’s Village

Public Comment Period in Progress

Progress Place I & II

Villas at Gower

Application Submitted to the State

Glenoaks Gardens

The Courtyards in Long Beach

Young Burlington

- The current financial crisis is having an impact on some of the projects that have applied for funding under the MHSA Housing Program. This is because it is increasingly difficult for projects to get construction loans from banks and other lending institutions. This may result in some project delays, however, the Department will keep the Mental Health Commission apprised of any new information that we receive regarding this issue.
- **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**
The Department is currently recruiting more mental health consumers and family members to participate on the MHSA Housing Advisory Board.

Staff from the Housing Policy & Development Unit will be participating in the upcoming Housing CA conference, entitled *Creating Community 2008*, taking place December 8-10 in downtown Los Angeles. Staff will facilitate an institute on training housing specialists and will participate in a panel discussion on implementing the MHSA Housing Program in Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Frank Baron – Spoke to 15 Sheriff Deputies, mainly women, regarding mental health. The breakdown of their concerns:

- 1/3 personal
- 1/3 advocacy
- 1/3 psychological

VI. Departmental Report

Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director, reported on the following:

MHSA Update – A public hearing will take place immediately after today's commission meeting. The goal of the public hearing is to inform the public of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and it's Stakeholders' Plan for:

- **The Assignment of MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention funds to the State for Statewide Projects**
- **PEI Early Start Program proposals: Anti-Stigma/Discrimination; School Mental Health Initiative; Suicide Prevention**

PMRT – Dr. Shaner lead a discussion on the article published in the Daily Journal regarding the cops helping mental patients when mental health workers are unavailable. Supervisor Don Knabe submitted a motion for DHS hospital administration to respond to the issues cited in the article.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal – briefly discussed the State's \$27 billion shortfall. No public hearing or none of the routine processes will take place until after negotiations and budget discussions are final by December 1.

- **Radar Screen** – Medicaid/Medi-cal residents of IMD will no longer be covered for physical health care

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim submitted a report on the following topics discussed at the last SAAC meeting:

- PEI – was the primary discussion.
- Administrative services moved to Owensmouth Street location in Canoga Park including the West Valley Wellness Center and Supportive Services Program. The move will not impact SAAC 2 meetings which will continue to meet at the West Valley Mental Health Clinic.
- The Client Run Center will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner to the people in Service Area 2 the day before Thanksgiving. The Center is prepared to serve approximately 200 meals to people expected to come. The Center will be open on Thanksgiving Day for anyone who needs to come.

VIII. Public Comments -

- Cynthia Carmona, Community Clinic Association of LA County (CCALAC) – To confirm receipt of CCALAC's letter regarding the MHSA PEI Early Start process and proposals. While we recognize the value of some elements of the proposal and the limited nature of the Early Start programs, CCALAC feels the proposals do miss certain opportunities for transformation of LA County's mental health system. We hope these missed opportunities will not be overlooked in future PEI planning.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. Next Meeting Information

The next scheduled meeting will be:

Thursday, December 18, 2008
12 – 2:30 pm
Downtown Mental Health Clinic
529 S. Maple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013